Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu after extensive study of the demography, crops, animal husbandry and other related issues of the region. The samadhan kendra is also being used to impart vocational training on computers to rural students of the area. A number of packages to satisfy the information needs of the rural people were developed. The Samadhan Kendra is currently in operation and is being used extensively. The project is implemented by an NGO Centre for Ecology Research and Development (CERD), Pondicherry. The total cost is Rs. 15.48 lacs. The Samadhan Kendra is being run as a cost centre by CERD, Pondicherry after completion of project in 2001.

(b) Since the centre is run as the cost centre, no scholarship or fee reimbursement is being provided by the NGO.

Irregularities in Telephone Department

†1194. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption, "Adhunikikaran ke naam par telephone vibhag mein kroron ki loot" published in Patna issue of "Dainik Jagran" dated the 19th May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted many investigations into the large scale irregularities in laying of cables and scams in purchase of materials without inviting tenders;

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.